will be the abolition of the hospital. It is to avoid such a contingency that I suggest that the premises of the camp-shed may be used for the dispensary.

DEWAN: They should not have made a promise which they could not keep.

The new system of tax receipts is being tried; and when the Land Revenue Commissioner reports how it has been working, it will be decided whether it should be continued or not.

Revenue Supervisors are necessary. They have taken the place of the old Taluk Surveyors and are necessary assistants to the Tahsildars. Somebody trained in theodolite survey is required.

You made some complaints about the Survey Department. They will be enquired into.

97. Needs of the Shencotta taluk.

MR. S. R. SABARIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Shencotta*) said that complete prohibition was the goal of every enlightened Government. With regard to the excise policy, the Government had stated in reply to a representation at the 18th session of the Assembly that they were of the view that drink should be gradually abolished, that the abkari revenue should disappear eventually and that it should not be a source of profit. This clear enunciation of the Government's policy was reiterated by the Excise Commissioner as the spokesman of the Government in the first session of the Legislative Council in 1098. The special committee appointed to examine and give effect to this policy of the Government had recommended the adoption of local option in the major Municipalities of the State, as one of the means of "gradually realising the goal" of the Government in the matter. This measure of reform could with advantage be introduced in all the minor Municipalities of the State as well. But the easier, quicker and more powerful method of achieving the goal was by enforcing total prohibition in selected areas as the Madras Government had done in the Tenkasi taluk. A similar experiment might be made in the Shencotta taluk also. The abkari revenue from Shencotta taluk was less than what it was in other taluks of the State. The movement of total prohibition in preference to temperance had gained ground everywhere and should be taken advantage of by this Government also with the least possible delay.

The people of Shencotta experienced considerable difficulty on account of the want of a standard dry measure. There were three kinds of dry measures in use, *viz.*, the *edangali* and its sub-divisions, the Madras *pucka* and its sub-divisions and the *marakkal*, the *nazhi* and their sub-divisions. The *mudra pucka* was generally used in shops and other places of business, but for purchase of paddy and grain the last mentioned measures were used. There was a good deal of corruption among the merchants in the use of these measures as they were not standardised. The subject had been represented at the 18th, 19th and 26th sessions of the Assembly, but nothing was done in the matter. The question should receive the early attention of the Government.

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The rural areas of the taluk situated to the west of the Shencotta town did not have any medical institution. One Mr. P. C. C. Pandyan, an experienced allopathic physician, had opened a private dispensary at Puliyara, called the Sri Chitra Tirunal Dispensary. This institution should be given a suitable grant. Rural medical relief scheme was worked with great success in British India. This system should be followed in the Shencotta taluk also and a suitable grant sanctioned to the abovesaid dispensary.

Lastly, the member requested that arrangements should be made for the supply of small billets of trees useful for making agricultural implements to *bona fide* agriculturists free of cost or on payment of a nominal price, the Forest Department collecting and stocking the materials in their depots and issuing them to the ryots.

DEWANS' REPLY: Mr. Sabariperumal Pillai, you gave a correct interpretation of the policy of Government in regard to prohibition. The Government's desire is to promote temperance by gradual means. We are looking forward to the experiment at Changanachery, and your suggestions for extending the same to Shencotta will be taken up after the results of that experiment are known.

The question of standardisation of weights and measures is under correspondence with the Revenue Department. Proposals are expected from the Land Revenue Commissioner.

A rural medical relief scheme was considered, but it has inevitably to lie over owing to financial stringency. For that reason, the dispensary at Puliyara has not been given any aid in the shape of a grant. Some Government land has, however, been given free of rent, for use as the site of the dispensary.

In regard to the supply of small billets of trees for making agricultural implements, if there is demand for them, arrangements will be made for supplying them to agriculturists at cheap rates.

98. Needs of the Shencotta town.

MR S. R. SABARIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Shencotta*) said that the people of Shencotta town suffered untold hardship for want of good drinking water, particularly in the hot season. The scarcity of good drinking water resulted in the outbreak of epidemics, such as cholera, which carried away many precious lives year after year. The subject had been represented at many of the previous sessions of the Assembly, and as a result, the Government ordered an investigation to be conducted in the matter, but the schemes prepared were dropped as being too costly. At the 26th session of the Assembly, the member had suggested two alternative proposals, one of which was to adopt a scheme similar to that worked out in the Chingalpet Municipality in British India, where a well was sunk in the Palar river and water distributed by pipes from a reservoir to which the water was pumped in from the well. The other was to include Shencotta also in the proposed protected water supply scheme for the adjoining British Indian taluk of Tenkasi. The latter scheme was

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